

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Suman Preet Singh Khanuja, et al.

Serial No.: 09/487,405

Group No.: 1634

Filed: January 18, 2000

Examiner.: A. K. Chakrabarti

For: NOVEL SCREENING METHOD FOR SELECTION OF INSECT
TOLERANT PLANTS

Attorney Docket No.: U 012567-2

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**RESPONSE TO THE OFFICIAL ACTION OF NOVEMBER 18, 2002**

Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested in
view of the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 6, 12 and 13.

Claim 6 (Amended). An *in vitro* screening method for identifying insect
tolerant genotypes or clones, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) growing plantlets in an *in vitro* system;
- b) [a) detecting] screening the plantlets for molecular variation of
somaclones using RAPD analysis *in vitro*;
- c) [b)] selecting the somaclones having molecular variation;
- d) [c)] exposing the somaclones of step [b)] c) to insect larvae or
nymphs; and
- e) [d)] identifying the surviving somaclones.

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